

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 084164
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 AF-10 INR-10 CU-04
SIG-03 MMO-01 USIA-06 PA-01 CIAE-00 SP-02 SS-15
NSC-05 DODE-00 /094 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CCA:WSSMITH:YT
APPROVED BY ARA/CCA:WSSMITH
EUR/RPM-MR. SAVAGE
AF/I-MR. STRAUS
NEA- MS. GLASPIE
ARA/RPP-MR. PARKER
EA/EX-MR. MILLS
EUR/SOV-MR. MATTHEWS
INR-MR. MELONE
CU-MR. LIDE INR MR FLEISCHER
-----077302 011831Z /66

R 010345Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
XMT AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TA CUL, PINT, XX, CU

SUBJECT: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IN HAVANA

1. THE 11TH WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD IN HAVANA
THIS YEAR, BEGINNING JULY 28. TENTH FESTIVAL WAS HELD
1973 IN EAST BERLIN, NINTH IN 1968 IN SOFIA. AS IN PAST,
THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL WILL BE SPONSORED BY TWO COMMUNIST-
FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS
(IUS) AND THE WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH (WFDY).
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CUBANS, AS HOSTS, ARE GEARING UP MASSIVE PREPARATIONS FOR
FESTIVAL, WHICH MAY BE ATTENDED BY AS MANY AS 20 THOUSAND
FOREIGN DELEGATES, MOSTLY REPRESENTING COMMUNIST YOUTH
AND OTHER RADICAL ORGANIZATIONS BUT WITH A FEW INDEPENDENTS
AMONG THEM.

2. WORLD YOUTH FESTIVALS HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN USED BY

SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES AS VEHICLES TO ATTACK US POLICIES AND ENDORSE THOSE OF SOVIET UNION AND VARIOUS RADICAL GOVERNMENTS AND MOVEMENTS. PROPAGANDA IMPACT OF MOST RECENT FESTIVALS HAS BEEN SMALL, GIVEN OBVIOUS HAND OF MOSCOW AND ITS ALLIES. AS THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL IS TO BE HELD IN ANOTHER COMMUNIST CAPITAL, HAVANA, THERE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE NO QUESTION AS TO ITS NATURE AND INSPIRATION.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. - ALL POSTS EXCEPT EE, MOSCOW, PEKING AND HAVANA: OUR BASIC OBJECTIVE WITH RESPECT TO WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IS TO MAKE CERTAIN THERE IS NO SUCH QUESTION. WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE TO INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES THAT THIS IS AN INSTRUMENT OF SOVIET POLICY, NOT A SPONTANEOUS GATHERING OF INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS FREELY EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS. ALL POSTS SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITIES THAT PRESENT THEMSELVES TO PURSUE THIS OBJECTIVE, WHETHER IT BE IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, OR CONTACTS WITH LOCAL OPINION MOLDERS, ETC. ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE NOT, HOWEVER, INSTRUCTED TO MAKE FORMAL DEMARCHE TO HOST GOVERNMENTS ON SUBJECT. WE BELIEVE THAT IN MOST CASES THIS WOULD GIVE MORE IMPORTANCE AND SIGNAL MORE CONCERN THAN FESTIVAL MERITS AND MIGHT OTHERWISE BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. SHOULD, HOWEVER, INDIVIDUAL POSTS BELIEVE THAT IN VIEW LOCAL CONDITIONS APPROACH TO HOST GOVT IS MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PROCEED, CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY MAY DO SO AT THEIR OWN DISCRETION.

4. ALL POSTS. POSTS SHOULD ALSO REPORT LOCAL REACTION TO HAVANA FESTIVAL, ANY SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION CONCERNING ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITY, COMPOSITION LOCAL DELEGATIONS, PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY ORGANIZERS, ETC.

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